24. The process according to claim 19 wherein aqueous ammonia solution contains a surface active agent for foam generation.

25. The process according to claim 19 wherein aqueous ammonia solution contains a foam of 5 to 20 mm depth on to improve bead shape.

REMARKS

Claims 12 and 15-18 are cancelled hereinabove, and replaced with new claims 19-25. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added via these amendments.

It is noted that none of the art of record, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a process for forming substantially spherical aluminum beads, using a vibrating nozzle plate so as to form falling hydrosol droplets, whereby ammonia gas is laterally blown against the falling droplets so that the surfaces of the falling droplets are substantially evenly gelled in a substantially spherical shape and the ammonia gas is blown from nozzles disposed on a ring interior and a ring exterior. In this manner, the resultant beads are of a uniform size and shape, have a narrow grain spectrum, good porosity, high breaking strength and low abrasion loss. (This is demonstrated by the data in attached Table 1, which

is taken from the German priority document DE 4035089. If the Examiner deems it necessary to present this data in the form of a Rule 132 Declaration, Applicants would be happy to provide same.) This is advantageous over and distinctive from the art of record.

Favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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